

In re: French et al.
Serial No.: 09/497,822
Filed: February 3, 2000
Page 4 of 4

REMARKS

The Advisory Action dated February 20, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 7-8, 10 and 12-18 are pending in the present application. Applicants thank the Examiner for indication of the allowable subject matter found in Claims 7-8, 10 and 12-17. Claim 18 has been withdrawn from consideration and has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the applicants. Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

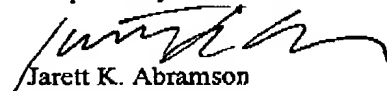
The amendments to the claims above should be entered by the Examiner because the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawings and do not add any new matter to the application. Further, Applicants believe that the amendments do not raise new issues or require a further search. Applicants further submit pursuant to 37 C.F. R. § 1.116, amendments after final presenting rejected claims in better condition for allowance may be admitted.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims define patentable subject matter. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

It is not believed that an extension of time and/or additional fee(s)-including fees for net addition of claims-are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. In the event, however, that an extension of time is necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such an extension is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any additional fees believed to be due in connection with this paper may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-0220.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jarett K. Abramson
Registration No. 47,376

USPTO Customer No.: 20792
Myers Bigel Sibley & Sajovec, P.A.
Post Office Box 37428
Raleigh, NC 27627
Telephone (919) 854-1400
Facsimile (919) 854-1401

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via the central facsimile number 703-872-9306 on February 20, 2004.


Clara R. Beard